

Appl. No. 29/746,013
Amdt. dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph starting on page 6, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

An exemplary optical link – optical link 108A – is illustrated in greater detail in FIG. 2. Optical link 108A includes a number of NEs communicating over the OSC. These OSC NEs 202 (four are illustrated in FIG. 2 – 202A, 202B, 202C and 202D) are in communication using optical fibers 204 (three optical fiber segments are illustrated – 204A, 204B and 204C). Optical link 108A is illustrated ~~[[has]]~~ as having only a single optical fiber 204 for communication between adjacent OSC NEs 202. However, as those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate, many optical links 108 are provisioned with two optical fibers connecting adjacent OSC NEs 202. Typically, in such a configuration, two optical fibers 204 are provisioned between adjacent OSC NEs 202 to provide a level of redundancy ~~should a single optical fiber 204 be damaged are otherwise go “offline”~~. In the description herein, the optical links 108 described herein include only a single fiber between adjacent OSC NEs 202. However, embodiments of the invention are equally applicable to adjacent OSC NEs 202 connected by one, two or more optical fibers 204.

Please replace paragraph starting on page 11, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

During operations 700, maintenance tool 440 will operate to communicate with and collect data from each OSC NE 202 that forms part of optical network 100 (FIG. 1). Communication between maintenance tool 440 and an OSC NE 202 is facilitated through operation of communication S/W 430 and network I/F 414. Communication between maintenance tool 440 and the OSC NEs 202 may be conducted in a serial or parallel manner. That is, maintenance tool 440 may first communicate with and collect data from a first OSC NE 202. Subsequent to communication with a first OSC NE 202, maintenance tool 440 may then repeat the communication and collection with a second OSC NE 202. This communication and collection may then be repeated as necessary. Alternatively, maintenance tool 440 may

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communicate with and collect data from more than one OSC NE 202 simultaneously or contemporaneously (i.e., in parallel). In the exemplary embodiment, maintenance tool 440 operates to communicate with and collect data from a plurality of OSC NEs 202 serially.